

Message Text

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TAGS OEXC, GR(PAPAGEORGIOU NICHOLAOS)

SUBJ: FY 76 IV PROGRAM

REF STATE 165752

1. THE EMBASSY APPRECIATES THE COOPERATION AND FLEXIBILITY OF ALL CONCERNED WASHINGTON AGENCIES, PARTICULARLY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR IN ARRANGING FOR GSEE PRESIDENT PAPAGEORGIOU AND FSL COSTAS ZARCHOS TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE IVP PROGRAM. THIS IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR BOTH, AND, AS WE STRESSED EARLIER, PAPAGEORGIOU IS OUR FIRST IVP GRANTEE FROM LABOR SECTOR IN MANY YEARS.
2. MR. PAPAGEORGIIU PREFERS TO DEPART FOR THE UNITED STATES SEPT 27 FOR PROGRAMMING IN WASHINGTON SEPT 28. IF IT SHOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR WASHINGTON AGENCIES TO MEET THAT SCHEDULE HE WOULD, AS AN ALTERNATIVE, BE ABLE TO TRAVEL AUGUST 30 FOR PROGRAMMING AUG 31. PLEASE ADVISE WHICH DATES WASHINGTON PREFERS.
3. IN EITHER CASE, MR. PAPAGEORGIOU WHO WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, HAS INFORMED US THAT REGRETFULLY HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SPEND MORE THAN THREE WEEKS IN THE UNITED STATES DUE TO THE HEAVY DEMANDS OF HIS OFFICE. FOR EXAMPLE HE MUST BE IN GREECE SEPT 24-26 FOR AN ORGANIZATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE GSEE IN WHICH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE ICFTU AND SOME OF THE LATTER'S INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIES WILL PARTICIPATE.
4. THE USG IS MAKING A SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL INVESTMENT IN THIS PROGRAM INCLUDING FSL FARCHOS' TRAVEL AND A DEPARTMENT

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OF LABOR ESCORT/INTERPRETER. IN VIEW OF THE SPECIAL EFFORT

AND INVESTMENT AND THE HIGH LEVEL OF INTEREST IN THE PROGRAM DISPLAYED BY MR. PAPAGEORGIOU'S IVP ALTERNATE, GSEE SECRETARY GENERAL CHRISTOS KARAKITSOS, THE EMBASSY WONDERS IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE KARAKITOS IN THE PROGRAM. KARAKITOS HAS VOLUNTEERED TO PAY HIS OWN INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE UNITED STATES, IF NECESSARY, SO THAT THE ADDED COST WOULD BE DOMESTIC US TRAVEL AS WELL AS HIS PER DIEM. IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO FUND KARAKITSOS FOR A RELATIVE MINIMUM OF ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT, IT WOULD BE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO REBUILD US-GREEK LABOR CONTACTS THROUGH A VISIT BY THE TWO HIGHEST OFFICIALS OF GREECE'S ORGANIZED LABOR. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON'S VIEWS ON THE FEASIBILITY OF INCLUDING KARAKITOS THROUGH SPECIAL FUNDING SINCE THE POSTS IVP FUNDS ARE EXHAUSTED.

5. PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS: GREECE IS A RAPIDLY MODERNIZING COUNTRY. ITS LABOR MOVEMENT IS STRUGGLING TO REORGANIZE AND TO ADAPT ITSELF TO THE NEEDS OF MODERN GREECE.

THE STRUCTURE OF INDUSTRY IN WHICH ORGANIZED LABOR OPERATES IS BASICALLY THAT OF THE SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZE FIRMS (LESS THAN 100 FACTORIES IN GREECE EMPLOY MORE THAN 1,000 PEOPLE). THE MAIN PROBLEMS CONFRONTING GREEK LABOR ARE THOSE OF ORGANIZATION AND TRAINING OF LABOR LEADERS. THE PROGRAM FOR PAPAGEORGIOU SHOULD BE DESIGNED WITH THESE FACTORS IN MIND. IT ALSO IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THIS IS PAPAGEORGIOU'S FIRST TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES AND THAT HE IS RELATIVELY UNFAMILIAR WITH US LABOR, ITS HISTORY, ITS ORGANIZATION AND ITS PHILOSOPHY.

6. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT PAPAGEORGIOU'S PROGRAM GIVE HIM BOTH A BROAD EXPOSURE TO THE UNITED STATES AND A SPECIFIC FOCUS ON US LABOR, PARTICULARLY ITS TRAINING AND ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS. HE HOPES THAT HIS VISIT WILL ENABLE HIM TO SEE SEVERAL MAJOR CITIES SUCH AS NEW YORK, BOSTON, CHICAGO, SAN FRANCISCO AND MIAMI. HE ALSO DESIRES CONTACT WITH THE GREEK/AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

7. IN ADDITION TO SEEING NATIONAL UNION ACTIVITIES, MR. PAPAGEORGIOU WOULD BE WELL SERVED IF HE SAW LABOR ASPECTS OF TEXTILE, FOOD PACKING AND PROCESSING, AND ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE INDUSTRIES, ALL OF WHICH ARE IMPORTANT IN GREECE. GREEK EXPERIENCE WITH LABOR HOUSING PROGRAMS HAS NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL AND AN EXPOSURE TO US LABOR HOUSING PROJECTS WOULD

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BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL. A VISIT TO A HIGH-TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY-- E.G. AVIATION--WOULD ALSO BE APPROPRIATE.
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